

THE GREENHOUSE LEAF-TYER

The larvae of the greenhouse leaf-tyer may be classed among the more important destructive enemies of several of the greenhouse plants. At times it has been known to cause a complete loss of some of the plants attacked. The injury is done entirely by the feeding of the larvae. The insect is widely distributed throughout the whole of United States and Canada. There are several generations of the larvae throughout the year in the greenhouse. As many as nine having been reported by workers of the Department of Agriculture. These generations overlap so much that the larvae are continuously present in the greenhouse. In the summer months the insect may cause damage in truck gardens, particularly to celery, beets and lettuce.

Recommendations for Control.

In the case of specially heavy infestations the following drastic control measures are recommended. Fumigate after dusk twice at intervals of seven days with hydrocyanic acid gas, using one ounce of sodium cyanide to one thousand cubic feet of air space, and with an exposure lasting for one hour. The first fumigation will operate against all moths which are present at the time of fumigation and the second one will kill all moths which have emerged since. Follow the first fumigation by dusting all the plants with a poison dust made of one pound of calcium arsenate, or one pound of arsenate of lead and nine pounds of superfine dusting sulfur. This material should be applied by means of a modern duster. If the poison dust is thus applied it will penetrate through the webs surrounding the larvae. It also overcomes the unsightly spray stain which results from the use of applications of liquid poison. If it is desired to use the liquid instead of the dust one ounce of arsenate of lead should be used to each gallon of water.

When it is not feasible to fumigate with hydrocyanic acid gas persistent dusting with a two percent nicotine dust will do much toward cleaning the greenhouse of the pest.

Light infestations may be successfully handled by going over the plants daily and picking and destroying any larvae found.

